

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 - 16 (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A brewing chamber of a coffee machine using a coffee pad, the brewing chamber comprising:

a top part having

openings allowing water to be delivered to the brewing chamber,

and

an outer seal; and

a bottom part,

wherein the top part is formed as a single ~~integral~~ monolithic piece of elastic material.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) The brewing chamber according to claim 17, wherein the top part has a centrally located push-off element bulging downwardly from the top part and being formed from an elastic material, the push-off element providing a downwardly biasing force against the coffee pad to separate the coffee pad from the top part during removal of the coffee pad.

20. (Previously Presented) The brewing chamber according to claim 19, wherein the push-off element is substantially hemispherical in its stress-relieved state.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The brewing chamber according to claim 20,~~ A brewing chamber of a coffee machine using a coffee pad, the brewing chamber comprising a top part having openings allowing water to be delivered to the brewing chamber, and a bottom part, wherein the top part is formed as a single integral piece,
wherein the top part has a centrally located push-off element bulging downwardly from the top part and being formed from an elastic material, the push-off element providing a downwardly biasing force against the coffee pad to separate the coffee pad from the top part during removal of the coffee pad, and
~~wherein~~ the push-off element includes a star-shaped element having metal tongues.
22. (Previously Presented) The brewing chamber according to claim 21, wherein the metal tongues are arranged between openings in the top part of the brewing chamber for entry of water.
23. (Previously Presented) The brewing chamber according to claim 17, wherein the top part has an elevated structure on the side facing the brewing chamber.
24. (Previously Presented) The brewing chamber according to claim 23, wherein the elevated structure includes circularly arranged ribs provided with gaps.
25. (Previously Presented) The brewing chamber according to claim 24, wherein the circularly arranged ribs are arranged concentrically.
26. (Previously Presented) The brewing chamber according to claim 24, wherein the gaps are arranged offset with respect to one another in the radial direction.
27. (Previously Presented) The brewing chamber according to claim 23, wherein the openings are arranged in the gaps.

28. (Currently Amended) The brewing chamber according to claim [18] 17, wherein the outer seal of the top part is executed as a tab-shaped circular lip and the top part comprises a plurality of supporting ribs for preventing ~~attachment of the tab-shaped lip to the top part~~ an inside surface of the tab shaped circular lip from sticking to other surfaces of the top part.
29. (Currently Amended) The brewing chamber according to claim 17, wherein a side of the top part facing away from the brewing chamber [can] is adapted to be placed ~~with a side facing away from the brewing chamber~~ on [the] a housing for the top part.
30. (Currently Amended) The brewing chamber according to claim 29, wherein the side of the top part facing away from the brewing chamber comprises a projection whereby the top part [can] is adapted to be engaged with a lug in the housing ~~for the top part at lugs.~~
31. (Previously Presented) The brewing chamber according to claim 30, wherein the projection is molded on the top part.
32. (Currently Amended) A coffee machine for use with coffee pads comprising:
a housing;
a brewing chamber disposed within the housing for receiving coffee pads and being at least partially formed by a top part and a bottom part, the top part being formed as a single ~~integral~~ monolithic piece of elastic material, having an outer seal, and having openings allowing water to be delivered into the brewing chamber.

33. (Currently Amended) The coffee machine according to claim 32, wherein the top part of the brewing chamber includes ~~an outer seal extending around an outer perimeter of the top part~~ and a push-off element disposed near a central portion of the top element, the push-off element bulging downwardly from the top part and providing a downwardly biasing force against the coffee pad to separate the coffee pad from the top part during removal of the coffee pad, and
the outer seal extends around an outer perimeter of the top part.
34. (Previously Presented) The coffee machine according to claim 33, wherein the push-off element is substantially hemispherical in a stress-relieved state.
35. (Currently Amended) ~~The coffee machine according to claim 33,~~ A coffee machine for use with coffee pads comprising:
a housing; and
a brewing chamber disposed within the housing for receiving coffee pads
and being at least partially formed by a top part and a bottom part, the top part
being formed as a single integral piece and having openings allowing water to be
delivered into the brewing chamber,
wherein the top part of the brewing chamber includes an outer seal
extending around an outer perimeter of the top part and a push-off element
disposed near a central portion of the top element, the push-off element bulging
downwardly from the top part and providing a downwardly biasing force against
the coffee pad to separate the coffee pad from the top part during removal of the
coffee pad, and
~~wherein~~ the push-off element includes a star-shaped element having metal
tongues arranged between the openings in the top part of the brewing chamber for
entry of water.

36. (Previously Presented) The coffee machine according to claim 32, wherein the top part has an elevated structure disposed on a side of the top part facing the brewing chamber and including circularly arranged ribs provided with gaps, the ribs being arranged concentrically and the gaps being offset with respect to one another in a radial direction, the openings being arranged in the gaps.